

seen, \$100. Mr. Stevenson found two other investors, and the three of them bought the two stores. These were the first two stores in the Dixie Home Store chain (now Winn-Dixie).

After finishing two years at the University of South Carolina, he started working for the South Carolina State Tax Commission as an auditor, and was later transferred by the Tax Commission to Greenville, South Carolina. There he met Eloise Martin and they were married on August 14, 1926 at the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Greenville, South Carolina.

In 1929 or 1930 Leon and Eloise bought a new brick house at 1309 East North Street, Greenville, where they lived for the rest of his life. He continued to work for the Tax Commission until the time of his death (February 23, 1959) at age 64.

The only child of Leon and Eloise, Leon Martin Flanagan, was born on January 22, 1932. This was the depth of the "Great Depression" and Leon and Eloise did not have the money to pay the hospital bill for the birth of the baby. Mr. J. P. Stevenson (Dixie Home Stores) paid the bill. Leon and Mr. Stevenson were friends through out their joint lives.

In addition to working for the Tax Commission, he also operated a small loan business by borrowing money from a bank at a low interest rate and loaning it to people who he knew and trusted for the purpose of buying or improving their small homes. Every Saturday morning he would make the rounds to the people who owed him money collecting a small amount each week.

He also invested in two small grocery stores, but these were not profitable investments, not like Dixie Home Stores, he said.

He was soft spoken, with a very dry sense of humor, and was liked, and trusted by everyone. He smoked heavily, which likely contributed to his death, the exact cause never being known. He always wore a hat, but that was not unusual for that time. He rarely went away from his house without wearing a suit and tie, and, of course, a hat.

He is buried at Springwood Cemetery, Greenville, SC on a plot with Eloise Martin Flanagan, and her parents, Benjamin Peyton Martin (Big Daddy) and Mamie Lewis Martin (Nannie).